

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 196580
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 SIG-01 USIE-00 INRE-00
SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-05 PA-01 PRS-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05 FEAE-00
DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY OES/NET/RD:JDEVINE:SLH

APPROVED BY D:DLAMB

AF:WBEDMONSON

-----087682 181935Z /45

O 181824Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE RE SOVIET CHARGES THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS
DEVELOPING NUCLEAR DEVICE

FOLLOWING IS LATEST PRESS GUIDANCE REGARDING SOVIET CHARGES
THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS DEVELOPING A NUCLEAR DEVICE:

Q: THERE HAVE BEEN A SERIES OF ARTICLES IN THE SOVIET
PRESS CHARGING THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS PREPARED A NUCLEAR
WEAPONS TEST SITE AND IS ON THE VERGE OF DETONATING A
BOMB. HOW SERIOUSLY DO WE TAKE THESE ALLEGATIONS?

A: THE POSSIBILITY THAT ANOTHER COUNTRY MAY BE MOVING
TOWARD THE TESTING OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE IS OF THE GRAVEST
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CONCERN TO US. WE KNOW THAT THE SOVIET UNION SHARES OUR
CONCERN OVER NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, AND WE ARE THEREFORE
TAKING THEIR ALLEGATIONS IN THIS MATTER SERIOUSLY.

Q: WHAT THEN ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

A: WE ARE MAKING THE NECESSARY INQUIRIES OF THE SOUTH

AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND IMPRESSING UPON THEM THAT WE SHOULD REGARD NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING AS HAVING THE MOST SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS.

Q: DO WE HAVE ANY EVIDENCE THAT SOUTH AFRICA ACTUALLY HAS THE BOMB?

A: AS YOU ARE AWARE, SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT A PARTY TO NPT (NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY), AND HAS HAD FOR SOME TIME AN UNSAFEGUARDED PILOT URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT. WHILE THIS IS NOT EVIDENCE THAT SOUTH AFRICA INTENDS TO DETONATE A NUCLEAR DEVICE, IT HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF CONCERN TO US. IT IS U.S. NATIONAL POLICY THAT SUCH FACILITIES SHOULD BE PLACED UNDER INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS ADMINISTERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY.

Q: HAVE THE SOUTH AFRICANS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S. OR OTHER SOURCES WHICH WOULD HELP THEM MAKE A NUCLEAR WEAPON?

A: AS A MATTER OF LAW AND POLICY, AND AS A PART OF OUR NPT OBLIGATIONS, THE U.S. DOES NOT ASSIST COUNTRIES TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WE HAVE NEVER PROVIDED THE SOUTH AFRICANS WITH SENSITIVE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. VIRTUALLY ALL NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS NOW FOLLOW SIMILAR POLICIES.

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Q: WHAT IS OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM? WHAT HAVE WE PROVIDED IN THE WAY OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES?

A: OUR BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA IS LIMITED TO PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY WITH INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE PEACEFUL USE. THAT COOPERATION DATES BACK TO AN AGREEMENT SIGNED IN 1957. UNDER THAT AGREEMENT, SINCE 1965 WE HAVE BEEN SUPPLYING HIGHLY-ENRICHED URANIUM FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S U.S. - BUILT RESEARCH REACTOR, WHICH IS USED SOLELY FOR ENGINEERING TESTS, ISOTOPE PRODUCTION AND FUEL ELEMENT DEVELOPMENT. SAFEGUARDS ARE APPLIED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY. IN SHORT, WE HAVE SOUGHT TO USE OUR INFLUENCE AS A SUPPLIER TO CREATE AND STRENGTHEN SAFEGUARDS AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPON PROLIFERATION.

IN RECENT YEARS, WE HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY STRINGENT IN WITHHOLDING EVEN THE MOST MINOR ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA'S ENRICHMENT PROGRAM IN KEEPING WITH OUR OPPOSITION TO ANY FURTHER SPREAD OF SENSITIVE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES IN NATIONAL HANDS, AND OUR OPPOSITION TO UNSAFEGUARDED NUCLEAR FACILITIES.

Q: WHAT ARE WE CURRENTLY DOING ABOUT U.S. SUPPLIES TO
SOUTH AFRICA?

A: OUR NUCLEAR POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA IS CURRENTLY

UNDER REVIEW, AS ARE ALL ASPECTS OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH
SOUTH AFRICA. WHILE OUR AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA WAS
AMENDED IN 1974 TO PERMIT EXPORT OF LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM
FOR ELECTRICAL POWER GENERATION, NO EXPORTS HAVE BEEN
MADE OR ARE IMMINENT. VANCE

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-02 ISO-00 OES-02 AF-02 /010 R

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APPROVED BY: IO:PBUNGE

AF/P:HOLLADAY

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TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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USIAEA

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS,
PARIS, LONDON FROM STATE AUG 18:

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE RE SOVIET CHARGES THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS
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FOLLOWING IS LATEST PRESS GUIDANCE REGARDING SOVIET CHARGES

THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS DEVELOPING A NUCLEAR DEVICE:

Q: THERE HAVE BEEN A SERIES OF ARTICLES IN THE SOVIET PRESS CHARGING THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS PREPARED A NUCLEAR WEAPONS TEST SITE AND IS ON THE VERGE OF DETONATING A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A: THE POSSIBILITY THAT ANOTHER COUNTRY MAY BE MOVING TOWARD THE TESTING OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE IS OF THE GRAVEST CONCERN TO US. WE KNOW THAT THE SOVIET UNION SHARES OUR CONCERN OVER NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, AND WE ARE THEREFORE TAKING THEIR ALLEGATIONS IN THIS MATTER SERIOUSLY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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GUIDANCE REGARDING SOVIE
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